

Eskimo Walrus Commission

KAWERAK, INC.



SOAR Science Workshop

March 12-16, 2012

Anchorage, Alaska

Eskimo Walrus Commission

Established in 1978, EWC represents 19 Alaska Native coastal communities in Bristol Bay, the Bering Straits, the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to advocate for and represent Alaska Native concerns regarding federal management of the Pacific walrus. Through the Marine Mammal Protection Act's (MMPA) Section 119 "Cooperative Agreements in Alaska", EWC is authorized to co-manage subsistence uses of the Pacific walrus population in Alaska's coastal communities in cooperation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).



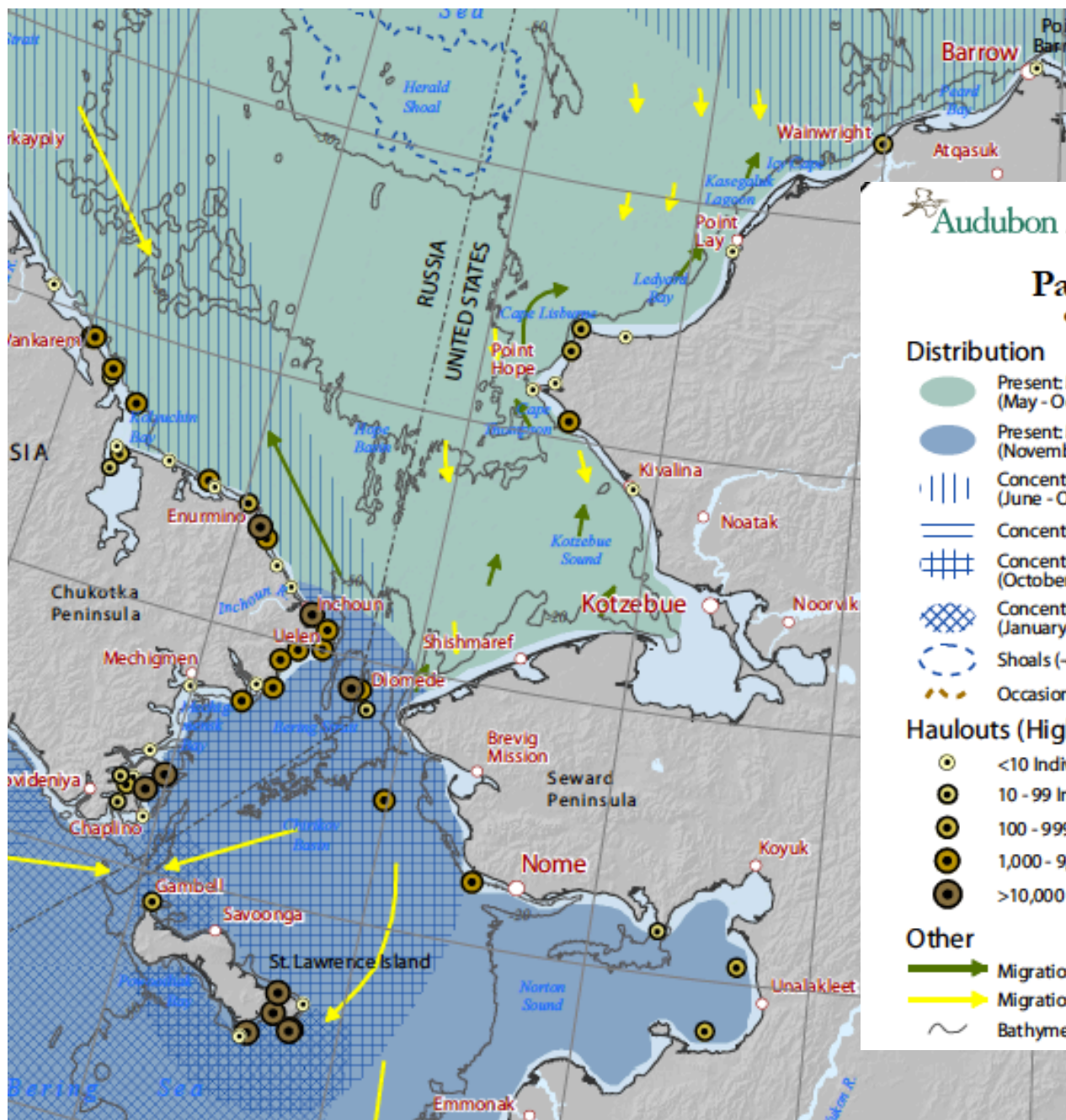
Current Conservation Issues

- Protect walrus habitat consistently from human & other activities (other than subsistence), e.g., disturbance from aircraft, offshore developments, commercial fishing, and UME that may affect walrus population.



Photo courtesy of Joel Garlich-Miller/FWS

- Minimize disturbances at terrestrial haulouts or at sea/ice pack to avoid major stampedes, mother-calf separation, walrus moving away from important feeding areas or major haulouts. (EWC passed **Resolution 2008-01 Minimize Disturbance of Hauled-Out Walrus**)



Pacific Walrus

Odobenus rosmarus

Distribution

- Present: Mostly Females and Young (May - October)¹
- Present: Males, Females, and Young (November-May)
- Concentration Area: Mostly Females and Young (June - October)¹
- Concentration Area: Males (June - October)¹
- Concentration Area: Males, Females, and Young (October - December)
- Concentration Area: Courtship and Copulation (January - April)¹
- Shoals (-40 m contour)^{2,3}
- Occasional Occurrence^{14,5}

Haulouts (Highest Numbers Reported)⁶

- <10 Individuals
- 10 - 99 Individuals
- 100 - 999 Individuals
- 1,000 - 9,999 Individuals
- >10,000 Individuals

Other

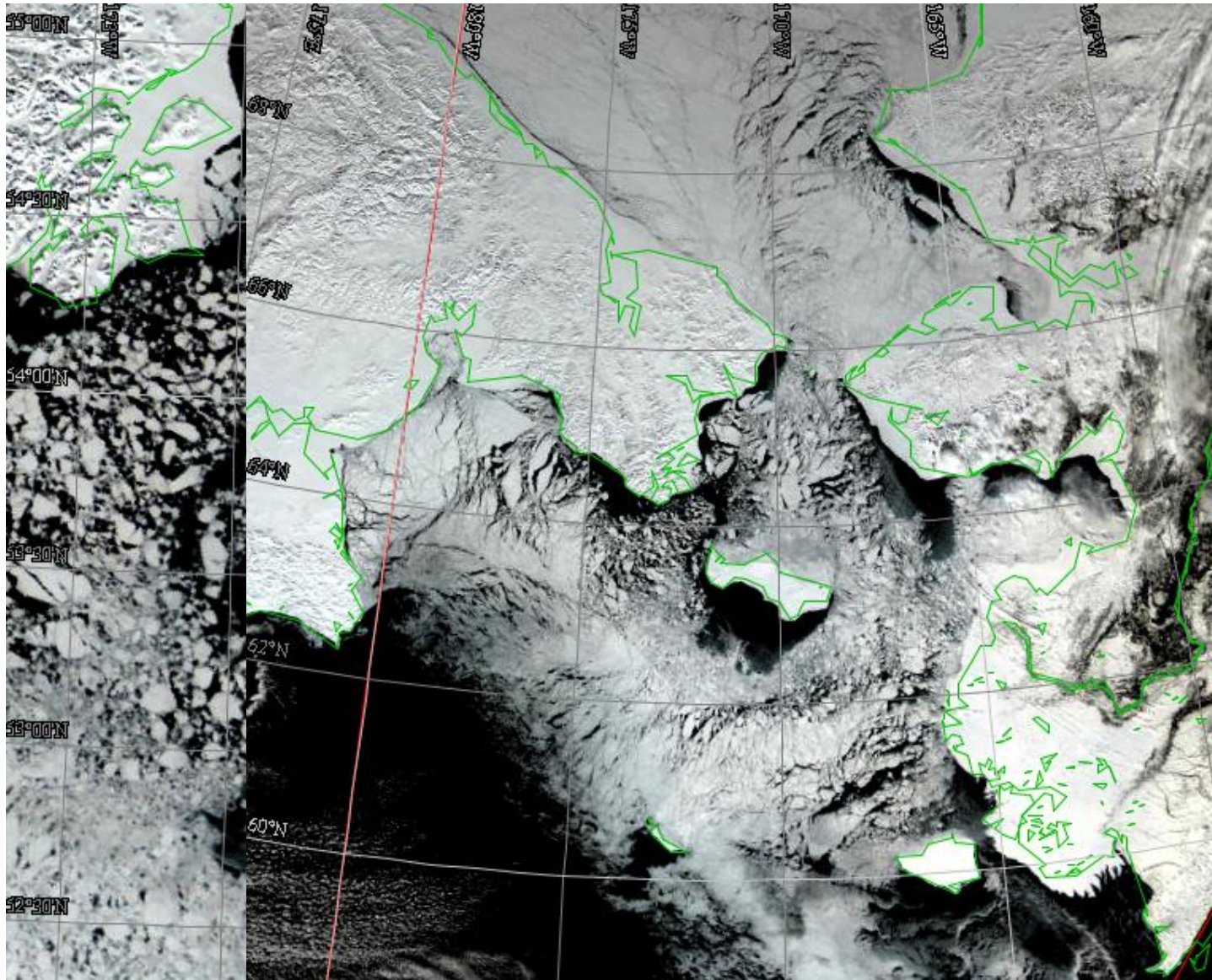
- Migration (May-June)¹⁷
- Migration (September-December)¹⁷
- Bathymetric Contour Line (in meters)^{2,8}

Haulout Activity on Little Diomed



Photos courtesy of Etta Menadelook

Sea Ice For Walrus Outlook (SIWO) Project



8 April 2011 - Paul Apangalook; local observer in Gambell

March 2011 Sea Ice Summary from Sivuqaq/Gambell

The ice pack [at Gambell] is different thus far compared to that of the past. It is generally agreed that it has a poorer quality, probably from mostly fluctuating temperatures; storms; and not fully developing, as it has before, into thicker ice. It is in all probability prone to rapid melting with the coming of warmer spring climates. The Siberian lead [between St. Lawrence Island and Siberia] has been open as well with the ice pack drifting beyond the horizon at least a couple of times. The shorefast ice was broken off from the *Qitelnguk*, *Devlegghaq*, and *Aqeftapak* bays [along the north shore, around Cape Sivuqaq] around the first of the month of March and remains open to date.

Traditional Knowledge of Native People of Chukotka About Walrus

Completed National Park Service's Beringia 3-year funded project final report:



- To lead into more discussions of bilateral research and walrus management programs.
- To benefit walrus conservation, education, and the continued relationship between walrus dependent communities in Chukotka and Alaska.

EWC Mission Statement

Encourage self regulation of walrus hunting and management of walrus stock by Alaska Natives who use and need walrus to survive.



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